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FROM: BUENOS AIRES 55 JULY 14, 1950.

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REF: DESPATCH NO. 1045, JUNE 26, 1950. DESPATCH NO. 1062,  
DESPATCH NO. 1077, JUNE 30, 1950. JUNE 29, 1950.

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY JUNE 15-JUNE 30, 1950.

Senate

Once during the course of the two weeks under review, the Senate rose above routine matters to support unanimously a resolution concerning the sovereignty of the Argentine Republic over all the islands in the Falkland Archipelago. The resolution specifically referred to the recent refusal to honor British stamps bearing the words Falkland Islands (Embassy despatch No. 965 of June 9, 1950) and states that Great Britain occupied the islands by military force in 1833. It refers vaguely to unspecified "international treaties and the most famous works written in Spain and the United States of America during the twentieth century on the history and geography of the Falkland Islands", which are referred to as las islas Malvinas. In his supporting arguments Senator MADARIAGA gave at length the now well-known bibliography on the subject. Subsequently Senator MOLINARI, President of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, addressed a lengthy critical evolution of some of these works. Particularly noteworthy, in view of Senator Molinari's position in the Senate, is the extreme hostility to the United Kingdom evident throughout his oration. This hostility reaches its highest point in the following sentences, "The present slogan of the British Conservative Party is 'either the British Empire will be reborn or the world will die' and history answers this slogan, 'the world will survive and the British Empire will not be reborn'. I know what I am talking about. I have just returned from a visit to vast regions of the world and my heart stands with Pandit NEHRU whose recent words in Indonesia are applauded from afar when he speaks of those vast possessions which once constituted the vital nucleus of the British Empire until 1914".

Deputies

The most important issues dealt with in the Chamber of Deputies in the period under review have been described in the reference despatches as follows: No. 1045 of June 26 concerning the suspension for ten meetings of Dr. Mauricio YADAROLA and No. 1077 of June 30 concerning the ratification of the Rio Treaty.

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The discussion of the bill enabling the creation of a national synthetic rubber industry occupied the Chamber during its first two meetings of the period. The meeting on June 21 was noteworthy for the introduction of various resolutions and declarations drafted by deputies of the opposition and of the majority party, the purpose of which was, respectively, to embarrass the government or to justify government measures. Of those various resolutions the most trenchant was that of Deputy SANTANDER who requested information as to (1) why the State trading organization known as IAPI delivered paper without demanding prior payment to a list of eight papers (those generally referred to in this Embassy's despatches as the Administration press) so that their collective debt for newsprint amounts to 6,206,011.90 pesos, (2) why was payment not demanded on overdue bills from these same papers, (3) what is the status of La Epoca's amortization agreement, signed on December 31, 1947, to pay off its debt of 2,053,015.75 pesos at the rate of 5% on the principal since this debt instead of decreasing had increased by 200,000 pesos the following March 31, 1948, (4) why has La Epoca not been sued for a half million pesos of overdue and demanded debts plus overdue but not demanded bills amounting to 2,966,110.43 pesos owed to IAPI on June 7, 1950, (5) to what budget item are the Subsecretariat of Information's payments for advertisements and publicity in El Laborista, La Epoca, Democracia, El Líder and La Hora chargeable since these debts amounted on September 30, 1949, according to the subsecretariat's own books to 17,337,011.85 pesos, (6) what kind of advertising or publicity was it that was worth so much money.

Presumably Deputy Santander does not expect an answer in the immediate future.

Sent to the committee on public instruction the same day was Father FILLIPO's project of a resolution that Deputies would be happy to see President PERON's speech inaugurating the Year of General SAN MARTIN distributed to all public schools and institutions of education. It will be recalled that this speech was one of President Perón's strongest and most partisan political utterances. Supporting his declaration Father Fillipo says after reading President Perón's speech, "one knows that there is something eternal over his brow: the providence of God, which leads the peoples to the glory of glorious (sic) immortality or to the junk heap of history when they are unfaithful to the laws of reason, justice and love."

Also of extreme interest is the draft resolution and supporting argument drawn up by Deputy PASTOR requesting the Executive for information concerning the present state of the maritime strike.

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The session of June 22 was reported in part in this Embassy's despatch No. 1045 under the subject of Suspension of Deputy YADAROLA. Storm clouds gathered as the session opened and Deputy FRONDIZI raised two questions with respect to the minutes of past meetings. It will be recalled that the minutes of the May 31 meeting have been suppressed because they contained Deputy Yadarola's opinions concerning the present state of civil rights in Argentina. After a sharp exchange of words with the speaker of the Chamber which resulted in a negative vote on Frondizi's motion to change the procedure for approval of minutes, Frondizi raised the issue of the minutes of the June 7 session. The fact that the stenographic transcript of the minutes of this session had been tampered with was mentioned in the Embassy despatch 1062 of June 29. Various members of the opposition gave emphatic expression to their opinion concerning this violation of the Congressional Record. A law of citizenship and nationality was introduced by a group of Radical deputies and a lengthy legal and constitutional discussion of its merits read into the minutes. Also sent to committee was Deputy PASTOR's attempt at drafting an acceptable bill for the protection of wildlife.

Temper began to shorten once more when Deputy DECKER obtained the floor to speak in honor of Flag Day, June 20. The discussions which occurred during this tribute were of such violence that the ear-shattering bells were rung on several occasions and the point at issue was the fact that the Radicals desired to read into the record the statement made by the Reverend Father Hernan BENITEZ in public on Flag Day to the effect that, "The blue and white banner will not survive unless it is grafted on to the Peronist flag". It appears that on the platform where Father Benitez was talking the national flag was held in a branching flag holder with a Peronist party flag as if they were branches of the same tree. A literal translation of his statement would run, "The blue and white banner will not survive if it does not take the sap from the Peronist banner". The Radicals maintained that this was an insult to the national flag and that the Peronist Father Benitez was presumably guilty of disrespect.

The session of June 28 was described in large part in this Embassy's despatch No. 1077 of June 30, 1950. In that despatch it was noted that a monkey wrench was thrown into the smooth running machinery of the Peronist majority, which had been requested to ratify the Rio Pact at five o'clock sharp, when Deputy DAVILA (Radical) launched a rhetorical piece on the subject of the VISCA-DECKER Committee's violation of parliamentary procedure. Once Davila had been silenced, the debate on ratification of the Rio Pact proceeded as described in the reference despatch, coming to a vote shortly before midnight.

#### Press Comment

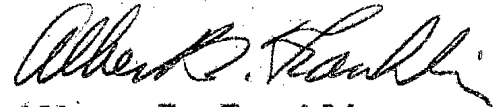
As the Department has been informed, the morning papers on June 29 and subsequent issues showed that the Rio Pact is an

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issue on which La Nación and La Prensa stand together with the Administration press. This coincidence of opinion seems to have encouraged La Nación and La Prensa to speak out with greater emphasis on matters of public interest in which they are diametrically opposed to the Administration, though the results of this increased boldness were not immediately visible in the period under review.



Albert B. Franklin  
Second Secretary of Embassy

Copy to Officer in Charge  
River Plate Affairs.

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